

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10994 301032Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02
IO-13 SSM-03 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /090 W
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O P 300950Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 428
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, UR, UX, XJ
SUBJECT: PRAVDA "REPORTS" PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. PRAVDA JULY 30 CARRIED A TASS-WASHINGTON REPORT WHICH LED
WITH A STRAIGHTFORWARD ACCOUNT OF THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THE OCTOBER 3 OPENING OF THE CTB TALKS IN GENEVA, BUT DEVOTED
THE MAIN BODY OF THE PIECE TO A TENDENTIOUS PORTRAYAL OF U.S.
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 10994 301032Z

MIDDLE EAST POLICY. TASS CHARACTERIZED THE POLICY AS "TWO-SIDED"
IN THAT IT SUPPORTS "THE AGGRESSIVE, EXPANSIONIST COURSE OF
ISRAEL" WHILE ALSO ATTEMPTING TO "CREATE THE IMPRESSION" OF A
"JUST AND EQUAL APPROACH TO ALL COUNTRIES IN THAT REGION."

2. IT GRUDGINGLY RECOGNIZES THAT THE PRESIDENT CONDEMNED
THE ISRAELI LEGALIZATION OF THE WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS BY

REPORTING THAT HE "HAD TO ACKNOWLEDGE" THAT THE GOI ACTION WAS AN "ILLEGAL ACT WHICH INTERFERES WITH THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE". IT THEN DISPARAGES THIS FURTHER BY CLAIMING CARTER TRIED TO JUSTIFY THE ISRAELI ACTION BY SAYING IT IS A "SURMOUNTABLE" OBSTACLE.

3. TWO OF THE NINE PARAGRAPHS ARE DEVOTED TO THE ONE QUESTION ASKED ABOUT HOW ARMS TO SUDAN, EGYPT, ISRAEL, IRAN AND OTHERS CAN BE SQUARED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY OF RESTRAINING ARMS SALES. THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY THAT U.S. AND ALLIED DEFENSE CONSIDERATIONS GOVERNED U.S. SALES, IS REFUTED WITH THE NOTE (NOT CARRIED ON ENGLISH TASS WIRE) THAT AS IS "WELL KNOWN" THESE CONSIDERATIONS DID NOT GOVERN U.S. DECISIONS ON ARMS SALES AND THAT THE SALES HEIGHTEN DANGERS OF NUMEROUS "CONFLICT SITUATIONS," PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA.

4. COMMENT: THE TASS ACCOUNT OF THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE IS SELECTIVE, DISTORTED AND IS IN KEEPING WITH WHAT HAS BEEN FOR SOME MONTHS STANDARD SOVIET PRACTICE IN TREATING U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY.
TOON

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